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New mayor

April Jeffs prepares to take over top job in Wainfleet; Page 3

Reeb House

Owner trying to reopen bar ravaged by fire; page 11

Provincial vote

Former Port councillor seeks Tory nod Page 7

Fighting poverty

Petition makes a case for seniors of low income; page 14

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INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 46 VOLUME 14

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ WATERFRONT

New beach opens

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Beach goers in the township have a new place to soak up the sun and lay in the sand.

Last week, regional chair Peter Partington and Mayor Barb Henderson officially opened a new public beach on Lakeshore Rd. in Wainfleet.

see BEACH A2

■ FIELD:

New Jersey pilot lands due to poor visibility

Helicopter makes emergency landing

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Kathy and Stan Prochownik got quite a surprise Sunday afternoon when a helicopter made an emergency landing in a field behind their Miller Rd. home.

"I was decorating a tree and Stan was upstairs on the computer," Kathy said. "I heard the helicopter come by really low."

She looked out and saw a white helicopter and thought maybe it had crashed to an accident over on Hwy. 140, but it circled back around her house and landed in a farmfield behind her home.

"It lifted off and came down a little closer," she said.

"I was getting a little worried so I called the police. I didn't know what was going on."

see HELICOPTER A2



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Kathy Prochownik stands in front of a helicopter that landed behind her Miller Rd. home in Port Colborne on Sunday afternoon. The pilot, Steve Dalagi of New Jersey, had to land due to poor weather.

See Inside: **INSERTS** Full Distribution



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■ BEACH



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Wainfleet Mayor Barb Henderson and Regional Chair Peter Partington stand on a new beach opened in the township Friday.

Region, township partner

FROM PAGE A1

"It's important for everyone to have access to beaches" said Partington, adding the Region has a strategy to maximize public access to waterfront across Niagara; to increase public ownership of waterfront lands; to preserve and protect the environment and heritage; and to encourage the use of waterfront lands that will benefit as many people as possible.

"I have been personally committed to the project and public ownership of waterfront areas and it gives me great satisfaction," he said, adding the council deserves the successful purchase of the 400 feet (122 metres) of waterfront property for future generations to enjoy," Partington said.

The new beach in Wainfleet has a paved grading and paved trails leading to the water. The area is a natural habitat for the Fowler's Toad, an endangered species, which required special consideration of design and access. Regional staff designed the

new beach parking lot and access trails.

Henderson viewed the opening of the beach as a celebration, adding the beach was on the minds of township residents during the official plan review process.

"It was something residents wanted and we listened to them. It also shows good things can happen when you work with your partners," Henderson said.

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority chair Doug Ransom said the conservation authority was very happy to be a part of the purchase.

Ransom said it's important the general public have access to property such as the one on Lakeshore Rd.

"I feel good about what's been done here and hope it's the first of many more to come," he said.

Access to the waterfront is located at 241.51 and 241.53 Lakeshore Rd. in Wainfleet. Improvements included new parking, pathways and landscaping totalling \$167,046.

■ HELICOPTER

'We're glad he landed safely'

FROM PAGE A1

The helicopter, a white Aerospace (Eurocopter) AS355F2, took off one more time and landed closer to the Prochowinski's home.

The couple went out to check on the helicopter and its pilot to make sure everything was OK.

"Stan asked him if he wanted to come in for a coffee," Dalagi said.

The pilot — Steven Dalagi he had been flying to Stoney Creek from New Jersey, when he had to land because of the weather. He landed around 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

"I flew over the lake (Lake Erie) and after about five minutes there was a wall of clouds that came all the way down," said Dalagi, from his Willingboro, NJ-based company Granite & Marble Concepts Inc.

"I followed VFR — Visual Flight Rules — meant he had no choice but to land when the bad weather decreased visibility to next to nothing. Niagara saw a lot of foggy weather over the last several days."

It "wouldn't have been safe to proceed," Dalagi said.

"When the fog comes off the water like that it doesn't show up in the forecast."

While over the area, the pilot looked for a spot to land but couldn't find one with any landing fields, he said.

Access to the waterfront is located at 241.51 and 241.53 Lakeshore Rd. in Wainfleet. Improvements included new parking, pathways and landscaping totalling \$167,046.

Prochowinski said Dalagi made a few phone calls once he was on the ground, the first



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
A helicopter, owned by Steve Dalagi of New Jersey, sits in a field off of Miller Rd. home in Port Colborne. Dalagi had to make an emergency landing on Sunday afternoon due to poor weather.

one being to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"When you fly internationally, all you have to file a flight plan," said Dalagi. A flight plan gives take off and landing times, the number of people flown.

The reason he called the FAA right away was that it was getting close to the time when a search party would have been sent out. The FAA, he said, allows about a half hour lead time after a scheduled landing before it starts to look for a missing aircraft.

"He knew he was going to be late and he also called Toronto because he dropped off their radar," Prochowinski said. Dalagi told her and his husband to call him to Stoney Creek's Hell-Lynx Helicopters, before heading to Buffalo for a flight home.

"He (Dalagi) told us he

was going to get his blade transmission fixed," said Prochowinski.

Dalagi said his helicopter was going into Hell-Lynx for warranty work. Once he saw the weather wasn't going to lift in time for him to make it to Stoney Creek, he decided to leave the heli-

copter in the field behind the Prochowinskis.

Prochowinski said Niagara Regional Police spoke to Dalagi at the scene and offered to take him to the border so he could make his flight, but a person from Stoney Creek came out and gave him a ride to make his flight in time.

"The police said they'd never seen anything like this," said Prochowinski, adding a lot of cars drove down on Miller Rd. to look at the helicopter behind her house.

Prochowinski said one of the other callers Dalagi made was to his wife back home to let her know what happened.

"He was a very nice man and we were glad he landed safely," she said.

A pilot from Hell-Lynx was scheduled to come to Port Colborne sometime Monday to fly the helicopter to Stoney Creek for the warranty work and Dalagi hoped to pick it up later that week.

Prochowinski said Dalagi left instructions with Hell-Lynx to give the couple a quick flight if they were home when the pilot came. Prochowinski wasn't sure if the couple would be home or not and added she's never been in a helicopter before.

Dalagi has been flying for about a year now, is up in the air two to three times a week and has racked up a lot of flight hours.

"I'm in love with helicopters last January. Most pilots get in about 80 hours a year, I've had about 300 hours so far," he said.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

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Management Staff

Left to right: Lynn Walbourne, Donnie Baer, Linda Bidgood, Shari Chastelet, Jason Brozovic, Grant Jennings, Cheryl Roy, Deb Souder.



portraits

■ **MAYOR:** April Jeffs and new council meet Dec. 7

Ready to run the township

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — As the day April Jeffs takes over as mayor of Wainfleet draws closer, she's a jumble of emotions.

"I'm very excited. I'm getting tingles in my fingers. I'm nervous," the mayor-elect said during an interview, the first since she won the election last month.

Jeffs knows there's a huge learning curve ahead as she prepares to take over the top job in the township, but she's ready for it.

"I'm a fast learner and have a pretty good handle on how things operate. I've been reading Robert's Rules of Order. In addition to reading the various accessory book on how meetings should be run, Jeffs said attending council meetings over the past few years have also given her an idea of how things work.

She and the three new aldermen elected — only one councilor was elected — will take part in an orientation meeting later this month with township staff.

Jeffs said she would like to get some tips from Barb Henderson before the mayor leaves office. She hopes for an early start.

When she sits in the mayor's chair for the first time, Jeffs wants to ensure council works as a cohesive team.

"I know we're not going to agree on everything. I hope we can debate and still move the township forward. I care so much about what I want to see done over the next four years, it's what council and the community wants to see done," she said.

She said going door-to-door during her election campaign gave her a good handle on what the community would like to see.

"It was the best thing I could have done."

One thing she heard at the door was the sharing of ser-



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Wainfleet mayor-elect April Jeffs looks over some reports as she gets ready to take over the township's top job. Jeffs is excited, anxious and nervous as the day draws closer.

ties between Wainfleet and other municipalities.

"Bylaw enforcement and drainage were two things people talked about and it might be something council could review."

Jeffs said it's possible those positions could move back to Wainfleet instead of being shared, but things like cost have to be looked at first.

"We don't want to do anything that will hurt the

taxpayers."

High taxes were also a complaint she heard, with people wanting to know where their tax dollars are spent.

"We don't have things like sidewalks and street lighting."

Residents want to see township roads repaired and some, Jeffs said, have suggested that grading gravel roads all the time is more costly than tarring and chipping them.

Of course, residents also want to talk about the water-sewer — the Big Pipe issue.

"We need to look at alternative methods to deal with the problem."

Homeowners along the lakeshore have been under a boil water advisory for a few years now as failing septic systems have leaked into water supplies.

Residents are sick of this, to put it bluntly. If the problem was solved it would settle a lot of minds and types in Wainfleet. People are afraid their taxes will go up without any benefit to them. People told me they maintain their septic systems and wondered why people along the lakeshore can't.

Reports on the issue are expected to come from Niagara Region sometime in the new year, but Jeffs said it's possible individual septic systems could be looked at and repaired or replaced, depending on where there was a problem.

With the Big Pipe issue being dealt with at the regional level, as well as locally, Jeffs plans to "work as hard as I can to become a strong voice at the region on Wainfleet's behalf. She won't know which regional council committees she'll sit on until her first regional council meeting.

She also wants to work with the region in relation to its culture plan. The culture plan is designed to co-ordinate the many existing cultural assets and activities to create a shared vision and action-plan for culture in Niagara.

"I think we can enhance the cultural assets we have here in Wainfleet, like trails and parks and such. We could look at maybe doing something with part of the Feeder Canal," she said.

■ *djohnson@wellandtribune.ca*

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ourview

Beach access

Beach goers in Wainfleet have a new place to soak up the sun's rays in the summer time thanks to a partnership between Niagara Region, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the township.

Last week, the beach, at 24151 and 24L53 Lakeshore Rd., was officially opened, despite the swimming and swimming season being long over. The beach has a working lot, trails leading to the beach and is landscaped to take into account the area is a natural habitat for the Fowler's Toad, an endangered species.

Onguting Mayor Barb Henderson said the beach showed how partnerships worked and viewed the opening as a celebration.

Henderson said beach access was very much on the minds of residents throughout the township's official plan process over the last 18 months.

Residents said they wanted a beach and they got one.

While beach access is one thing township residents wanted, it is something the region is looking at elsewhere as part of its waterfront enhancement strategy. The strategy sets out to maximize public access to waterfront across the region; to increase public ownership of waterfront lands; to preserve and protect the environment and heritage areas; and to establish uses of waterfront lands that will benefit as many people as possible.

Despite being surrounded by two great lakes and the Niagara River, the region is sorely lacking in access to the waterfront.

Yes, there are public parks in Port Colborne and Wainfleet that are open to the public, but the majority of land along the waterfront at across the region is privately-owned.

What makes things worse is that some of these properties own what are called water lots. People actually own the land under the water. So if a person were to take a walk down a beach in the water, a homeowner, if so inclined, could have that person charged with trespassing.

In Port Colborne, there's only two public beaches you can enjoy. They are at the beach in the Town Hall, but in most cases those aren't much wider than 20 metres and aren't all sandy.

One place we would like to see this strategy put in effect was at the site of the former Lakewood Camp. We understand East Seals sold to the highest bidder, and who wouldn't try and get the possible dollar for prime land, but it was a piece of property that should have been fought for by the town and region, and when it sold it sold for a fortune.

The land there would have made a prime natural park and a great beach.

That's why we'd like to see Port Colborne and Wainfleet work closer with the region on the waterfront enhancement strategy to turn more land along the lakeshore into public land and land that can be enjoyed by all.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

The in-between time

REV. STEVEN DAVIS
Central United Church

November is a very strange month. It's not October, October is the high point of fall, with trees full of blazing colours, Thanksgiving and Halloween and still the warmth of the mid-day sun continue to bring comforts.

October is wonderful.

November is not always December. December is the start of winter. The cold air (and perhaps the snow on the ground) is fresh and invigorating.

Christmas beckons us, the hopefulness of a new year is on the horizon. December is well under way.

But November is a very strange month. Although there's still the odd warm day, for the most part November is a cold month - too cold to be really comfortable, but not cold enough to be invigorating. November is a dark month.

As the clocks go back an hour we are reminded what seems to be more and

more darkness as evenings approach. November is the prime example of an in-between time. It's not quite fall, and it's not quite winter. It's just November.

In many ways November serves as a gateway to the rest of the world. The world isn't where it was, but it hasn't arrived at where it's going.

I'm referring, of course, to the world as God wants it to be.

I'm writing this just a little while after returning from a week of service Day services in the Caribbean.

Is there any other day of the year that reminds us more starkly of the fact that the world is not as God wanted it and created it to be? The

Bible tells us that the world was created in a state of peaceful perfection - peace between people, between people and nature and peace within nature itself.

The Bible tells us that God will restore that world that He created so long ago, so that once again there will be peace and harmony on the earth.

One day.

But today is like November. It's an in between time - a time when we look back with nostalgia and look ahead with hope, but when we often wonder what's going on and what's going to happen to us.

We need to take advantage of the in between times. We need to use them as an opportunity to enrich our lives, and from the perspective of faith, that means coming closer to God.

The questions we have about the world as it is existing, the questions we have about the world as it should be, through the relationship we choose to enter with our God, God grants us this time to approach Him with our questions and our fears and our uncertainties so that we can be reminded of God's presence in the midst of it all.

November is a very strange month, but I submit there's one thing I really do like about it. My birthday falls in November! This in between time for the world is somewhat similar. It represents for us the opportunity to claim new life by choosing to place ourselves in the hands of God.

readers' views

Councillors should support proposed developments

Port Colborne city council should be supporting not suppressing growth in the Lakeside city. John Zark is attempting to rebuild his business (Reeb House Tavern) and the Quartek Group Inc. is negotiating to add to the landscape with the Olde Humberstone Village. Take the positives and work together for solutions to the problems. The tunnel vision - leave the curbs and tree-lined faces to the Toronto skyline and despite general belief by a neighbour or two 'the island' is not regarded or even considered a Muskoka cottage-like paradise. Lame duck councillors with just days remaining in their terms should refrain from adding their negative views.

Barry Tuttle
Port Colborne

Further regionalization not wanted in south Niagara

This is in response to out-going regional Chairman Peter Parlington and his cry for a unified multifamily Port. With all due respect, I believe Parlington speaks for St. Catharines.

Talk to the people in the south and I believe they will have a different view.

Having lived in Port Colborne for 54 years, I feel like responding sarcastically.

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as a community, in need of new services, upgrading old ones, and need to be involved to complete these projects?

So, if you are not involved in complaining that you don't want taxes to go up, but you want roads, sewers, water lines, new recreational facilities etc improved ... you are missing the whole point.

The more people you have to split the costs, the less you will have to pay.

The more people involved in the Old Humberstone Village development by certain councillors is an outrage.

Not liking the "look" of a pond? Come on, people, this is a huge opportunity to have a beautiful development close to our \$5-million street revitalization area.

These areas will bring new business to service these areas and more.

Look at Burlington. It had the same empty downtown as Port's is.

Now, it's revitalized streets and the waterfront offers residents and tourists an incredible shopping and living experience.

I can't understand why some people just don't want change.

How a beautiful new condo development would cause existing properties to lose their value is ridiculous. Just the opposite.

I hope our new council will see its way clear to welcoming progress and development in our city. Continued opposition to development is not fiscally responsible.

L. Sloat
Port Colborne

COLUMN

As John Lennon said, 'So this is Christmas ...'

Christmas is supposed to be the "most wonderful time of the year." If a seasonal ditty by Andy Williams is to be believed.

But for many in our area, it isn't, not by a long shot.

It's simply a time of the year that reaffirms how sad their lives are, how they can't provide for their families and where they stand in the community. Or they simply are, either having lost family members to illness or having lost love in one form or another.

But here in our town, there's help.

Port Colborne's amazing social service/justice centre runs two Christmas-oriented programs — Adopt a Family and Give a Gift.

Judy Cassan, manager of client services at Port Cares and an old dear, is very special to us for who she is: have incredible admiration and respect, says what makes the programs unique is the



George Duma
BY GEORGE

fact people don't come in and register for them as is the case with many other such programs around Niagara.

Adopt a Family for example.

"During the course of the year, all the program managers identify people who otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas if we didn't help," she says. "Our clients are people who are working, were moving along in the continuum and somehow they got snacked in the head, through no fault of their own."

The folks come from all walks of life. They can't afford presents or fix incomes. They are living on their own, trying to make a go of it by staying in school

while being expected to live on \$564 a month through Ontario Works.

They can be the working mom who is working full-time but still find they're deciding between paying the heat for the month or eating. Christmas, obviously, is a pipe dream for these unfortunate people.

"These are people who wouldn't ask," Judy explains, "so you can't just say 'I don't take much.' It's not volume, it's the fact somebody thought of them. We give them a couple of small things and they're just thrilled."

Gift carts are extremely popular with Adopt a Family.

"It can be a coupon for

Harvey's/Swiss Chalet. Just

so they can get out and go for a meal."

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own, trying to make a

go of it by staying in school

Technically, there are another group on Port Cares' radar.

"They don't expect much and they're not going to get much," says Judy. "Clothing are extremely popular — a pair of jeans, a winter jacket that actually covers their arms. Underwear and socks."

Judy says the two programs

are a lot of additional work

for staff but the rewards are gratifying.

People come open a gift and find a laundry basket filled with a box of laundry soap and other soaps and toothpaste and stuff and go "Ahhhh!" It brings tears to your eyes."

Give a Gift is exactly what

it says. Falls around Port

Colborne call in to find out

what's needed and then go

shop for it. They drop off the

gifts at Port Cares and the organization's staff members see that those gifts are distributed.

Port Cares' donors (who

request anonymity) in town

spends \$2,400 each

Christmas on 50 teens —

\$400 per teen — young

people who are living on

their own and trying to get

ahead. He gets their list and he goes shopping for them. He finds out what's needed and gives

an equal value to the others and if there's something one of them perhaps doesn't need that the others do, he'll give that one teen a gift card instead.

That is why the extra work isn't a chore," Judy explains, "but rather a labour of love."

Adopt a Family and Give a Gift are but two examples of the work that goes on around Niagara each Christmas. Many of these types of organizations — like Port Cares — do a type of work year round but they go the extra mile at Christmas.

But then there are specific

Christmas-time groups

like Santa's Helpers and

Community Christmas Toys,

where families can register

and then go "shopping" for

the gifts for the kids in the

community.

Niagara's food banks all

reach out to their respective

communities through the media and through church

groups, asking for an increase

in donations at this time of

year so somebody has to go

without.

see DUMA A6

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■ DUMA

We can always do more to help food banks

FROM PAGE A5

We just went through another successful food drive here in Port that helped fill the shelves but we can still do more.

There are many, many Christmas dinners being served throughout Niagara either the day before Christmas or on the day itself, Dec. 25, like our own annual ones.

The responsibility lies within each of us to educate ourselves and try to go the extra mile (kilometer?) to try and do what we can.

The "most wonderful time of the year?" Indeed, on so many levels, Andy Williams had it realized.

Sadly, however, for so many, it just isn't. But it can be, if we all pitch in and work together to make it so.

As John Lennon sang so long ago, "So this is Christmas... And what have you done?"

There are organizations eager to make Christmas special for everybody. They just can't do it all by



GEORGE DUMA InPort News Photo
Judy Cassan, manager of client services at Port Cares, and her colleagues are running two Christmas-oriented programs.

themselves.

And it's why, for the family

that has enough "stuff," it's the perfect gift to give to

one another. By all means, pick up a few things to place

under the Christmas tree and open on Christmas Eve or

Need to know ...

Call 905-834-3629 to see how you can help the Port Cares Adopt a Family and Give a Gift programs.

Christmas morning, whatever your tradition is.

But if you have all the big-ticket items you'll ever need, consider going out as a family and shopping for someone who don't have anywhere near what you do. Helping out an unfortunate family in need is such a strong bonding tool.

Let's all help Port Cares and any other organization trying to bring a happy time to all at what should be such a glorious season of the year. Merry Christmas, indeed.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@ cogeco.ca

Doug Mann

Supporting quality healthcare, close to home.

Over the past 15 years, Doug Mann has gone from walking with a cane to using a walker, then an electric scooter and now a power chair. The total effects of his disease truly hit home when one of their great-grandchildren said 'Nana I don't remember Papa ever walking by himself.'

It was on a vacation to Las Vegas with his wife of 58 years, Isobelle, that he first felt something wrong with his legs.

"It felt funny," he says. "The second day I couldn't lift it up onto a curb."

Donations to Welland Hospital Foundation brought *Quality Healthcare, Close to Home* and made a difference for Doug. Won't YOU make a difference for someone you know?

► To read Doug's full story go to

<http://www.niagarahealth.on.ca/foundations/wh>



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■ CITY COUNCIL

Snow buddies needed

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne is initiating a Snow Buddies program to help seniors who have assistance keeping their sidewalks and driveways safe and free of snow.

Patricia Reiger of Community Support Services of Niagara, pitched the program that pairs a teenage volunteer with a senior in need to shovel snow, to council at its last meeting.

"Port Colborne has the highest number of falls for seniors in the area," Reiger said. "It's really exciting we can roll this out to Port Colborne."

Snow Buddies reps have visited local high schools to encourage students to participate. Teens who want to accumulate volunteer hours and who want to help can fill out a volunteer application form at www.snowbuddies.ca.

The program launched in St. Catharines last year was initiated in Port Colborne when the Safe Communities program identified falls in the community as being a preventable issue to tackle.

Seniors who need someone to shovel can call program coordinator Laurie Elliott Leach at 905-682-3800, ext. 28.

■ PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Ursini seeks Ontario PC nod for Welland

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — After opting out of serving a third term on city council, Domenic Ursini has set his sights on the province.

Ursini, who announced last spring that he would not be seeking re-election as a Ward 2 city councillor, is instead vying to lead the Welland riding Conservative for next fall's provincial election. In a prepared statement, Ursini said change is needed at Queen's Park to get the riding and province "back on track."

"Lost jobs, health-care cuts and constant attacks on the family budget are [Premier Dalton] McGuinty's legacy for the Welland riding."

Ursini, who has lived in the Welland riding throughout his life, said he's proud of his record serving constituents of Port Colborne on city council.



Dominic Ursini

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ALONG THE LAKESHORE

SUNDAY, NOV. 21

St. Joseph's (Snyder) Catholic Women's League is holding its Christmas Bazaar, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pork on a bun, fresh baked cinnamon buns, and homemade apple crisp on the menu. Silent Auction, penny table, bake table and craft table as well as games for the children. We

have beautiful Christmas baskets packaged up and ready for gift giving. Everyone welcome. St. Joseph's Hall is at the corner of Nethery and Sodom Rds.

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

Classic Book Club at the Wainfleet Township Public Library from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for afternoon tea.

on the last Thursday of the month as we discuss the works of classic authors. This month's selection is Cranford by Emily Gaskell. Please call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member. Limited copies of each book will be available for loan to book club members.

AT THE PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Art in the Abrium: "The Subject is Clear: an exhibition of Paintings in

Pastel" by Ray Baecher. In the Abrium, October 15, 2010 to January 15, 2011.

Kids' Yoga with Nadia Esposito. For ages 4 to 11. From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. New six week session begins Tuesday, November 2nd to December 7th. Cost is \$25 per session or \$50.00 per drop-in. To register call Nadia at 905-329-9841.

Create with Kathleen. Adult art classes with Kathleen Thorsen of Stone House Art Gallery. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, starting September 7th. Cost is \$10.00 per class, materials supplied. Ongoing. For more

information, contact Kathleen by phone at 905-834-9784 or by email at: kathleen.thorsen@cogeco.ca.

Small Hands Studio: Art Workshops for Children. With Kelly Langley Davies. Painting, drawing and sculpting. Mondays, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., September 13, 2010 to June 27, 2011. Four-week session fee is \$55.00. Five-week session fee is \$65.00. Save \$5 per child per session when you book two or more siblings in the same session. Call Kelly at 905-834-8483 for more information.

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■ REBUILT: Bridge wider and now has bike lanes

O'Reilly's Bridge open

WAYNE CAMPBELL
InPort News Staff

PILIMAN — O'Reilly's Bridge opened last Friday after an almost two-year closure.

The former one-lane iron-framed bridge was replaced with a two-lane flat bridge at the same location.

O'Reilly's Bridge is a historic link between Wainfleet and Pelham over the Welland River near Niagara Central Airport.

It is the only crossing between Beckett's Bridge

on Regional Rd. 24 and the Webster Rd.-Lincoln St. crossing in Welland.

On March 1, a mechanical lift, a crane raised the old 40-tonne structure off its moorings and moved it to the river bank.

Crews dismantled the frame, built in the early 1900s. Parts of it will become a historic monument on the west side of the river.

Niagara Region, which owns the bridge, will tell the story of various bridges that crossed the river this point

along the river.

Unlike the narrow, one-lane frame bridge, the new bridge is wide enough for two lanes with cycling and pedestrian pathways. It also has decorative siding to celebrate the bridge's historical significance.

Contracts for construction, planning and supervision was awarded to Brantford Bridge Services Ltd. of the Miller Group, McCormick Rankin Corp. and Ellis Engineering. Next spring, about \$500,000

worth of approach-road work and landscaping will be done.

Niagara Region closed the old bridge in January 2008 because of safety concerns about the structure and the weight it could carry.

The new open bridge is expected to ease crossings for farmers with wide equipment who could not use the old bridge.

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca



WAYNE CAMPBELL/Staff Photo

After nearly two years of construction, O'Reilly's Bridge linking Wainfleet and Pelham reopened last week.

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Friday, November 19th, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Portal Village Retirement Home
300 Elgin Street, Port Colborne

Progressive Auction • Bake Table

All proceeds from the sale are for the benefit of the Portal Village residents, (special music entertainment, recreation/ educational programs, purchasing of videos, and more).

"Residents' Council is responsible for this distribution of the funds"

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■ MCKAY ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST PROGRAM



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo
The McKay Elementary School breakfast program got an extra boost on Friday from Young Automotive Professionals, which donated \$1,000. The daily program provides hot food, fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses and beverages. Junior kindergarten students Peyton Elling and Hyatt Jones hold the donations while teacher AnnMarie Busch prepares the cart of food.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

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WE APOLOGIZE

The InPort News apologizes to the Niagara Health System Port Colborne Library and the Citizens of Port Colborne for the incorrect advertisement which appeared in the InPort News on Friday November 12th about an Open House at the Port Library Nov. 24th. The advertisement should have read Open House meeting Port Colborne Site McKellar Hall Saturday November 13th 10 to 1.

CHRISTMAS COLOURING CONTEST



CONTEST RULES

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3. Prizes to be drawn Tuesday, December 21st

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■ PORT CARES: Ground broken for expansion

'Together ... we'll bring this to reality'

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Infrastructure funding is helping to lead a need in Port Colborne.

With \$670,000 from the federal and provincial governments, secured through Infrastructure Stimulus Funding, Port Cares is expanding its Reach Out Centre to better serve its clients and to provide a central food bank.

A sod-turning ceremony was held at the Nickel St. centre last week to mark the beginning of its expansion, which will provide space for a commercial kitchen, a community food bank, food storage and additional office space.

Port Cares has raised \$200,000 of the \$355,000 needed for its share of the project, which will be undertaken by Sankin Construction Ltd. of St. Catharines.

"It's a very exciting day," said Lynda Reinhardt, executive director of Port Cares. "Together we know we'll bring this to reality."

Expansion will allow for a variety of increased service delivery opportunities and additional training.

Welland MP Malcolm Allen said Port Cares has perfected the one-stop-shop hub where clients can access



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Port Cares was officially turned Friday for the expansion of the Port Cares Reach Out Centre on Nickel St. At a small ceremony staff, volunteers and clients took the opportunity to mark the beginning for the centre that serves hundreds of people every month.

a wide variety of services. He said when it comes to getting more value for taxpayer dollars, he tells members of Parliament about Port Cares and how much it costs every month.

"Peter (Kormos) and I both know the need is here in Port Colborne," he said. "I commend Port Cares and how it is a great place.... Port Cares truly is the model for one-stop shopping."

The 234-square-metre expansion will take up the parking lot behind the facil-

ity. A vacant parcel of land purchased two doors down from 61 Nickel St. will be transformed into the new parking lot.

"It's extremely exciting because we will finally be able to have our food storage under one roof and with a larger building we will offer a greater variety of services to our clients," said Kormos, adding circles and kids programming.

"Reach Out centre manager Mary Anne Feagan said the expansion will take up the parking lot behind the facil-

ity.

■ PETITION: Old age issues

Fighting for seniors

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE

Seniors can't be allowed to live in poverty so something needs to be done to ensure they don't, say two local men fighting for the grey-haired issues.

Welland MP Malcolm Allen and Friends Over 55 Social Centre president Jack O'Neill met to talk about seniors issues.

O'Neill also presented the MP with a few petitions that address such issues as the Canada Pension Plan (CPP)/Quebec Pension Plan (QPP), Old Age Supplement and other benefits.

"Our seniors built everything we have, they worked hard for us and we can't allow them to live in poverty," said O'Neill. "It's a disgrace and would be a black mark against us if we allowed that to happen."

Allen said whenever he sees a senior, he thinks of his mother — and that's what pushes him to fight for them.

O'Neill has been fighting for seniors for years now and wants to see their situations improve.

That's why he started the petition on CPP/QPP, Old



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Welland MP Malcolm Allen and Jack O'Neill, president of Friends Over 55 Social Centre in Port Colborne, look over a petition dealing with seniors issues.

Age Supplement and other seniors benefits earlier this year.

The petition was spread across the country thanks to Allen using his resources and that of fellow MPs in different parts of Canada.

While somewhat disappointed in the number of signatures garnered in Niagara — only a couple of thousand — O'Neill hoped there would be more from across the rest of the country.

"It's time for the people to help me in this fight. I can't do it all by myself, I need backup and I need people to voice their opinions to the people in Parliament," O'Neill said.

He said seniors need to have an increase in their Old Age Supplement and CPP, and the federal and provincial governments need to start doing more to help seniors.

"It's time Mr. [Stephen] Harper looks after seniors in our country. They can no longer afford to do nothing. I'm getting fed up with the way the government acts towards seniors," he said.

Allen said with winter nearly upon us, seniors are going to have to start choosing between paying for hydro, heat and groceries; as well as whether to eat.

"People are going to struggle, especially with HST on hydro now," the MP said. "People can't make ends meet."

Allen said a motion was introduced in the House earlier this year to double the Old Age Supplement and it was passed by all parties.

"We're just waiting on the government to act on it now."

johnson@wellandtribune.ca

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Q. Are there any other benefits from choosing a BPS denture?

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■ **PROGRAM:** Annual program sees coats handed out to those in need

Keeping kids warm

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

POR T COLBORNE — Winter months can be hard for families struggling to get by.

There might not be money to buy new winter coats and winter accessories to stay warm.

It comes the Port Cares Coats for Kids and Families drive which collects new and gently-used coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, snow pants and boots.

At times, avid knitters donate bags of hand-made mittens.

The Coats for Kids depot, at 176 Catharine St., is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday for people to drop off their items, or for people in need to come and select a

warm coat and accessories. No identification or information is needed to pick up

a coat.

Port Cares client services manager Judy Cassan said



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Port Cares is again teaming up with Lighthouse's Cleaners for the Coats for Kids and Families event. Client services staff member Brittany Lennie and Lighthouse's manager Faye Shibley and employee Carolyn Brennan display some of the coats that have been donated.

last year there was a high demand for coats for people aged 24 to 54. Overall, the program helped about 300 people.

Cassan is thankful for the donations, especially people who purchase new coats specifically to be donated.

"It definitely is needed."

she said of the program funded with support of the United Way.

Lighthouse's Cleaners manager Faye Shibley said her business is more than happy to help the project.

"We want to help children and all families that need the extra help."

Coats for Kids and Families runs until Dec. 16, but Cassan said it might be extended. Any coats that are not sold at that time left over will be donated to Port Colborne elementary schools to help students in need.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca



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REVIEW: 2011 Subaru Impreza WRX STI sedan

STI rallies around family performance

JOE DUARTE
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JOE DUARTE QMI Agency
Body add-ons such as a high rear wing point to the performance potential of the Subaru Impreza WRX STI sedan.

The Subaru Impreza WRX is probably the best known performance sport compact on the planet. The STI version is basically a World Rally Championships (WRC) competitor. It's well known for being along the lines of hot-rod drivers.

The WRX has been the performance version of the Impreza, since the brand's creation in 1993, pumping up the sure-footed and sporty engine with a turbocharged engine. The STI is the top of the Subaru Technical International, Subaru's motorsports division, which pumps up the turbo-charged engine and adds a couple distinguishing features.

With the 2007 redesign of the Impreza, the adoption of the more spacious hatchback for the rally races, Subaru decided to change the WRX and STI bodystyle to that of the Impreza four-door hatchback, which didn't really sit well with the young performance crowd, but it did look good to the board. So for 2011, Subaru brings back the sedan bodystiles, and offers both hatch and sedan WRXs and STIs for the first time.

Personally, I find the hatchback design much cleaner and more attractive than the sedan, but attractiveness in this market is judged by how much you stand out.

What we're really interested in is the 305-horsepower version of the turbo 2.5-liter horizontally opposed (otherwise known as "boxer") four-cylinder engine (the WRX makes 265 hp), blessed with 290 lb.-ft. of torque (the WRX makes 244), it launches the STI off a line seemingly with the force of a Titan missile. The Subaru standard symmetrical all-wheel drive system makes sure all four tires are biting into the pavement as well as the surface lets them. Controls on the console allow the driver to manually lock up the centre differential at the push of a button (meaning both axles

are locked).

The starting price of a pretty

Alcantara and supportive, rear passengers understandably getting a little claustrophobic around the knees. The rear seats don't have the bolster support of the front, but they still have the great support of the front.

You can get into an Impreza for as little as \$21,000 with the WRX available at \$32,500 and the STI from \$38,000. It's pricey but what else would you pick for a weekend rally run with the whole family on board?